wise deposits and advances of public sector banks for the last three years are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively *[See* Appendix *182,* Appendix No. 9]

The Indian commercial banks (both public and private sector) are required to lend to the priority sector including agriculture, small scale industries and professionals and self-employed persons, as per details furnished below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total priority sector advances | 40% | of net bank credit |
| Total agricultural advances | 18% | of net bank credit |
| Advances to Weaker Sections | 10% | of net bank credit |

Bank-wise performance of public sector banks vis-a-vis the target in lending to priority sector and State-wise outstanding advances to priority sector by public sector banks for the last three years are given in the Annexure-III and Annexure-IV respectively. *[See* Appendix *182,* Appendix No. *10]*

**Loan Amount Released by Nationalised Banks and NABARD for Agricultural Sector**

673. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan amount released by the nationalised and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 for agricultural sector in the country, State-wise; and

(b) State-wise ration with all India loan released during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

**News-Item Regarding Abuse of Passbook Scheme**

674. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age dated 23rd October, 1997 captioned "15 in net for Passbook Scheme abuse";

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) action taken against those involved in the fraud.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under investigation by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. The investigation is yet to be completed.

**Decision Regarding Sale of Public Sector Equities**

675. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hike to central budgetary receipts against sale of public sector equities from Rs. 4500 crores to Rs. 7000 crores; and

(b) if so, the details of Government shareholdings approved for sale to facilities this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) With the aim to mobilise additional budgetary resources, the budget target of disinvestment during 1997-98 has been raised from Rs. 4800 crores to Rs. 7000 crores.

(b) The Government has approved following disinvestment proposals for the years 1997-98:

(i) Upto 210 millions shares held by Government in Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL).